WRAL-TV produced and aired an hour-long debate between the two leading gubernatorial candidates. The debate aired 7-8pm on October 15, 2004. WRAL anchor David Crabtree moderated the debate between incumbent Mike Easley and GOP challenger Patrick Ballantine. The debate was offered via satellite to any television or radio station in the state--free of charge. Television stations in Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilmington and Greenville aired the debate. John Harris

WRAL News Director